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28 October 1952

MEMORANDUM TO: Deputy Director/Intelligence
FROM: Assistant Director, Current Intelligence
SUBJECT: Proposed Watch Committee Revisions
REFERENCE: Memorandum dated 29 September 1952 to the Deputy
Director/Intelligence from AC of S, G-2, Intelli-
gence, D/A

1. The referenced memorandum mentions the possibility of a "steering committee" for the Watch Committee and an extension of indications coverage to include the economic, industrial and political fields.
2. This office has prepared a brief paper setting forth proposals based on the above points.
3. Enclosed is a draft reply to General Partridge to which those proposals are attached.

HUNTINGTON D. SHELDON

OCI:INT:FAV:mvh

2 Attachments

Draft memorandum to Maj. Gen. Partridge
Draft "Proposed Changes in Organization and Functioning of the
IAC Watch Committee."

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Maj. Gen. R. C. Partridge, GS
AC of S, G-2, Intelligence
Department of the Army
Washington 25, D. C.

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SUBJECT : IAC Watch Committee

1. In your memorandum of 29 September 1952 [redacted] you suggested (a) the possibility of a "Steering Committee" for the IAC Watch Committee and (b) an examination of coverage of indications with a view to including long-range implications in the Economic, Industrial and Political fields.

2. We have been thinking along similar lines for some time. In order that General Willems may have the CIA view at hand when he is considering possible changes in organization and functioning of the Watch Committee, we have prepared the attached short paper on the problem.

3. I have asked Mr. Huntington Sheldon, Assistant Director, Current Intelligence, who is responsible for coordinating CIA interests in the Watch Committee, to be available at General Willems convenience to discuss further, and to amplify, the CIA position, should General Willems so desire.

FOR THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE:

LOFTUS E. BECKER
Deputy Director/Intelligence

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PROPOSED CHANGES IN ORGANIZATION AND FUNCTIONING OF THE IAC WATCH COMMITTEE.

1. General Partridge's memorandum of 29 September 1952 raises two interesting points, the possibility of establishing a "steering committee" for the Watch Committee and the establishing of indications coverage to include economic, industrial and political fields.
2. It appears to CIA that much can be gained if the idea of a "steering committee" is broadened into the concept of an "Executive Staff". The "Executive Staff", acting as the executive of the chairman of the Watch Committee, would provide wide benefits to the intelligence community. Members of the Executive Staff would be full-time intelligence officers of exceptional vision and ability, detailed from CIA and the IAC agencies. Each member would be responsible for a major functional intelligence field with the exception of one of the OIA members, who would provide the over-all approach. The Executive Staff, functioning on a 24-hour basis, would have as its primary task the critical scanning of indications provided by the member agencies and the preparation of a draft Watch Committee Report for the consideration by the Watch Committee in formal session. Other responsibilities of the Executive Staff would include the alerting of the Watch Committee when required by the receipt of critical information and recommending revision of Watch Committee procedures to meet changing needs. A Secretariat would be necessary to provide clerical and administrative assistance to the Executive Staff. Personnel for this Secretariat would be drawn from CIA and the IAC agencies.
3. An extension of the indications coverage to include the economic, industrial, and political fields is considered desirable at this time, particularly as the emphasis of the Soviet Communist tactics may be shifting to political and economic means of obtaining the long-standing objectives of Soviet policy. Accordingly, it is proposed that the mission of the Watch Committee be changed to include the collecting, evaluating, analysis and reporting of indications of Soviet action in the political and economic warfare fields as well as Soviet-Communist intentions of hostile military actions.

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